

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**September 23, 2004**

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A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:05 p.m.

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**In Attendance**

J. DiPrete, P. Guida, G. Grove, S. Duff, and (K. Forbes).

**Chairman's Remarks:**

Chairman DiPrete introduced Michael Sentence, the Regional Representative from the US Department of Education to announce the 2004 Rhode Island Blue Ribbon School award winners. Mr. Sentence gave the Board a brief overview of the selection process. He then announced and presented the East Greenwich Archie Cole Middle School with this year's award on behalf of the school.

Chairman DiPrete recognized Regent Sue Duff from East Greenwich who offered her congratulations to the school and praised Archie Cole Middle School for all of their work on behalf of East Greenwich children.

Next, Mr. DiPrete and Commissioner McWalters presented the school with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Regents and Department of Education.

(Note: Because of the lack of quorum, the minutes of September 9<sup>th</sup> were not approved).

**Public Remarks:**

There were no public remarks.

**Update on State Test Scores**

Commissioner McWalters told members that the results of the state test scores will be released during the second week of October. The actual school classifications will be released approximately one month later.

**Update on Adult Education Governance Calendaring**

Commissioner McWalters explained that the Governor had convened a task force consisting of Human Service, DCYF, Labor and Training and RIDE to address the proposed infrastructure of Rhode Island's adult education system. The Governor wants to highlight the system to be a state priority and make the department of education the lead authority for the "new" adult education structure. The office will be made up of a new Director and four staff members.

The Commissioner told the members of the board that four FTE's would move from DLT and Human Services to the Department of Education and a new additional FTE will be added. The Director will report directly to the Commissioner. A more complete discussion and plan will be brought to the Regents in the near future.

### **Budget Update**

Commissioner McWalters told members of the Board that the Budget transmittal letter has gone over to the Governor. It will now be distributed with a cover letter to the state's teachers, administrator, school committee people, etc.

The commissioner reminded the group that there will be a first budget workshop on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 pm to give members a historical overview and information in preparation for the Regents approval of a state aid plan of action. A second workshop will then be scheduled to discuss specific options and made decisions.

### **Committee Report**

**Progressive Support and Intervention** – Chairman of the Regents' Progressive Support and Intervention Committee Regent Guida, informed the group that a meeting took place earlier during the day to provide information on the status of the PS&I effort. The group had reviewed an outline of the work and then focused its discussions on Central Falls and Providence. The Commissioner told members of the group that there really hadn't been any surprises. Regent Guida spoke to the members of the Board about the importance of communicating clearly with the districts about what is going to be happening with PS&I and to make certain that people at the district level understand what PS&I is and how it connects to the high school regulations, the ongoing middle schools discussions, the changes in the length of the school day, etc.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner McWalters reported that the department has received resources to hire additional PS&I support and will be bringing a reviewed table of organizations for Regents approval.

### **Executive Session**

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(1), the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 5:35 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

With Unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.